Please amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1 (amended). A sprayable erosion coating mixture for protecting aircraft and aircraft engine components, said mixture comprising:

a latex containing liquid; and

an additive for changing the dielectric constant of said latex containing liquid, wherein said coating mixture has a dielectric constant from about 2.0 to 4.2 at 10 Ghz.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 22 (new). The sprayable erosion coating mixture of claim 1 wherein said coating mixture has a dielectric constant from about 2.3 to 4.0 at 10 Ghz.

Claim 23 (new). The sprayable erosion coating mixture of claim 1 wherein said coating mixture has a dielectric constant from about 2.6 to 3.8 at 10 Ghz.

Claim 24 (new). The sprayable erosion coating mixture of claim 1 wherein said additive comprises titanium dioxide.

Claim 25 (new). The sprayable erosion coating mixture of claim 1 wherein said additive comprises barium sulfate.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 2, 2002. By way of this amendment, claims 5-21 have been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended. New claims 22-25 have been

added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached paper is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE." Claims 1-4 and 22-25 are currently pending in the application. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The restriction requirement of April 24, 2002 (Paper No. 2) has been made final. Applicant hereby affirms its provisional election of claims 1-4 for further prosecution. Claims 5-21 have been canceled. The title has been rewritten in view of the cancellation of the method claims.

Claim 1 has been objected to because of the appearance of the word "liquid" twice in line 5. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the redundant instance of the word "liquid" and is it requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that the specification does not contain an enabling disclosure of the recited catalyst. Claim 1 has been amended and no longer recites the element of a catalyst. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has stated it is unclear what the recited chemical reaction entails or constitutes. Claim 1 has been amended and no longer recites the element of a catalyst which enables the chemical reaction of the

latex containing liquid. Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,390,658 (Graetz et al.) This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites a sprayable erosion coating mixture for protecting aircraft and aircraft engine components, said mixture comprising: a latex containing liquid; and an additive for changing the dielectric constant of said latex containing liquid, wherein said coating mixture has a dielectric constant from about 2.0 to 4.2 at 10 Ghz.

Graetz et al. discloses a coating composition comprising a latex and a pigment millbase. Graetz et al. clearly fails to anticipate the claimed coating composition having a dielectric constant from about 2.0 to 4.2 at 10 Ghz. Graetz et al. does not describe the dielectric properties of the disclosed coating or how they may be modified. Although Graetz et al. mentions the use of pigments which may include titanium dioxide, which is one of the additives that may be used in the present invention, there is no suggestion that the pigment may be used to change the dielectric constant of the coating.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Graetz et al. fails to either disclose or teach all of the elements of amended independent claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1 and are thus believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Applicant has chosen to add new claims 22-25. No new matter is contained therein. The prior art of record is not believed to disclose or suggest these new claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-4 and 22-25 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

September 18, 2002
Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (amended). A sprayable erosion coating mixture for protecting aircraft and aircraft engine components, said mixture comprising:

[a)] a [A] latex containing liquid; and

[b)] an additive for changing the dielectric constant of said latex containing [liquid] liquid, wherein said coating mixture has a dielectric constant from about 2.0 to 4.2 at 10 Ghz [; and

c) a catalyst for enabling the chemical reaction of said latex containing liquid and said additive].